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NEGOTIATIONS ACTIVELY PROCEEDING BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MADRID.

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY CONFIDENT OF BEING ABLE TO PREVENT A RUPTURE-A CONCIL-IATORY TONE MANIFESTED BY THE

BAGASTA CABINET - THE MES-SAGE ASKING RELIEF FOR STARVING CUBANS MAY BE WITHHELD A FEW DAYS.

Washington, March 28 .- President McKinley's Message to Congress transmitting the report of the Maine Board of Inquiry bore out fully today, in scope, tone and contents, the forecasts of the Administration's programme which have been made for a week past in these dispatches. rising." The Message itself was absolutely formal in character and confined in purpose to a matterof-fact recital of the circumstances under which the Maine visited Havana Harbor and a summary of the conclusions reached by the Board which was asked to fix the responsibility for the loss of the battle-ship. No reference of any sort to the general situation in Cuba was allowed to creep into to-day's communication to the two houses; nor was any recommendation Spain is confidently expected to make for the ern question is unfavorable to Spain, "as divertwanton destruction of a United States warship ing the attention of the European Powers." publication had been counted on by the radical | crisis in the Far East, adding: advocates of intervention in Cuba to bring the two countries to the actual point of war-cut the | sults and repudiate unjust pretension." ground completely from under the feet of that element in Congress which had hoped to make the published findings a basis for immediate and

### A WISE MOVE BY THE PRESIDENT.

aggressive legislative action.

By shifting to Spain the obligation to fix herself the measure of her responsibility for the Maine's destruction, and thus leaving the op- | ized in Cuba, besides many members are ready tion with this country to accept or not accept | to go there from Spain, if necessary." the reparation offered, President McKinley not only put the Administration in a position to her say so frankly and not seek charitable or appeal to the opinion of the world in case Spain should refuse suitable indemnification, but also precluded the consideration for the present of any hasty or ill-considered ultimatum legislation by Congress.

That both houses received the Maine report without plunging at once into debate on the fence." He adds: "Spain has still occult ener-Issues raised by the findings is gratifying proof of a disposition-hitherto too rarely exempli- tory which surprised Europe, laid the foundation Med-to throw no positive obstructions in the for the prison of St. Helent. Let not our presway of the President's programme for dealing ent misfortunes dismay us. The genius of Spain with the tangled and tight-drawn skein of Span- lives in her sons." ish relations. For though Mr. Money, in his speech this afternoon in the Senate, showed some signs of chafing at what he called the "inutility" of the Administration's schemes of diplomacy, the Mississippi Senator's protest seemed to find only a feeble echo, and there is probably little danger that the deliberative branch of Congress, at least, will for the present consent to any interference by legislation ent consent to any interference by legislation with the plans the President has framed or may frame for ending all difficulties with Spain |

It demanded that Spain put an end to the war in Cuba immediately, recapitulating the damage done to American interests, and further hinting through peaceful negotiations.

## THE TEMPER OF THE HOUSE.

The temper of the House of Representatives, as disclosed in numerous expressions of opinions on the Message from many leading memnot so well disposed toward an administrative policy which does not promise speedy intervention in Cuba, regardless of the chances of ending the struggle there by diplomatic means. Undoubtedly there is a strong feeling in the House against embarking on any project which contemplates the voting of money to feed the Cuban reconcentrades, if measures are not taken concurrently to put an end to the system of concentration to which the existing misery and destitution in the island are due. But it is expected by the Administration that

the Cuban problem is fully developed the pressure for more violent and radical action in Congress will subside, and that the Executive Department will be allowed to carry out its programme without serious hindrance in either

In accordance with this belief, the President had almost reached the conclusion to-night to abandon his purpose of sending at once to Congress a Message asking an appropriation of \$500,000 to be used in relieving the sufferings of the reconcentrados, but decided not to submit the plan by direct Government ald until the intentions of the Spanish authorities are disclosed more definitely to Congress and the country. The Message appealing for funds to succer the starving non-combatants in Cuba the chances are decidedly against its transmission to the Capitol inside the present week.

That the Administration has entered with fresh vigor into negotiations with the Sagasta Cabinet, looking toward a peaceful settlement of the Cuban problem, is plainly evident. The success of the Liberal party in Sunday's elections to the Cortes is regarded here as greatly strengthening the hope of an amicable accome dation of existing differences between Spain and the United States, and the Administration has renewed, through Minister Woodford, with added confidence, its efforts to bring the Sagasta Cabinet to the point of ending the war in Cuba by granting political concessions to the insurgents of the most sweeping and liberal character.

It is as yet too early to divulge the details of this new scheme of pacification, or to speculate on the chances of its indorsement by the insurgents. But it is certain that in the nego tiations now actively in progress between Washington and Madrid both Governments find renewed hopes and brighter prospects of the restoration of order in Cuba and the maintenance of an honorable peace between Spain and

LIEUT. NIBLACK GETS ANOTHER VESSEL. CONDITIONAL PURCHASE OF A WARSHIP BEING

the United States.

GOVERNMENT, conditionally purchased for the United States Government a protected cruiser building at the Germania Yards for a South American Government, and that he is considering the purchase of

Rome, March 28 .- The "Tribune" announces that a "superior officer of the United States Navy" is coming to Rome to negotiate for the purchase of warships, and that after visiting the Italian deckyards he will visit those of France and Germany.

POLAND WATER IS STANDARD FOR PURITY And medicinal power. Received daily from Mainc's famous spring. Circulars (gratis), Depot, 3 Park Pl.

### SAYS IT WAS INTERNAL. CONFERRING AT MADRID.

EXTRACT FROM THE MAINE REPORT COMMUNICATED TO MINISTER GULLON.

TO DAY GENERAL WOODFORD WILL CONFER WITH PREMIER SAGASTA AND HIS AD-VISERS-MINISTER MORET BAYS

Madrid, March 28.-United States Minister Woodford had an important conference this | It is taken from a copy of the original report, evening with Sefior Gullon, the Foreign Minister, which is now on its way here from Havana, the and communicated to him an extract from the | synopsis being cabled in the mean time and toreport of the American Board of Inquiry into the Maine disaster.

with the Premier, Senor Sagasta, and Senors Gullen and Moret, the Foreign and Colonial follows:

The "Diario" quotes the Minister for the Colonies, Señor Moret, as replying to a question of the Minister of Marine, Admiral Bermejo, with

"The storm continues, but the barometer is

the remark:

This is regarded as meaning that the situation is not so unfavorable to Spain as it was. The latest election returns show that 192 Ministerialists, 46 Conservatives, 7 Romeristas, 15 Republicans and 3 Carlists have been elected. Advices from Havana show that four Autonomists and two Conservatives have been

returned. The official newspapers are somewhat optimistic in their references to the "solution of the made to Congress except to await with coolness | Cuban difficulty," although they emphasize the and self-restraint the offer of reparation which opinion that the recrudescence of the Far East-

The "Imparcial" and the "Liberal" to-day ports. So discreet and dignified a treatment of agree in saying that the mediation of the Euthe Sampson Board's report—a report whose ropean Powers will be difficult, in view of the

"Anyway, Spain is able herself to resent in-

The "Liberal" also says: "If the United States desires to succor the Cubans, the simplest means is to confide the mission to the Spanish Red Cross, which was recently helped in the same object by France, Russia, Hungary, Portugal, Venezuela and Argentina. The Spanish Red Cross is well organ-

"However, if the United States wants war let humanitarian excuses.

humanitarian excuses."

The Archbishop of Granada has issued a pastoral exhorting the people to raily round the "banner of faith, which is always that of the Spanish Motheriand," and, "forgetting all discord, to form a single body for the common deferee." He adds: "Spain has still occult energy the stream of the bottom where the vessel rests, will prove that, supposing the remains of the wreck) as to be totally or partially altered, in the gies which, in the days of Napoleon, by a vic-

London, March 29.- The Madrid correspondent of "The Daily Mail" gives a version of the negotiations between United States Minister Woodford and the Spanish Cabinet last week differing somewhat from that given yesterday by "The Standard's" Madrid correspondent. He

"The note which General Woodford presented on Wednesday was of a comminatory nature.

done to American interests, and further hinting that the war was a danger to the public health of the United States, the continual smuggling between the coasts of Cuba and Florida being the means of conveving the yellow fever.

"Spain's reply was energetic. It declared that the war would have been ended long ago but for the material and moral help and support the rebels were continually receiving from the United States. The Spanish note complained of the policy followed by the United States in dethe policy followed by the United States in de-manding from Spain the termination of a war which the United States were virtually main-taining by the presence of a squadron in the neighborhood of Cuba, and by organizing succor for the reconcentrados in a manner that would licy followed by the United States in de be offensive to any nation, as well as by keeping in Havana a Consul who is publicly the agent and representative of the rebels.

and representative of the rebels.

"Public opinion rejects all idea of yielding and apparently neither desires nor fears war with the United States. Yet Spain knows she is confronted with the most serious conflict she has had to face since the Napoleonic wars. There is an ominous absence of excitement among the people, whose one topic is the possibility of war. It is the calm before the storm, which will break when the American ultimatum comes."

## CONGRESSMEN SEE THE PRESIDENT. THEIR OBJECTIONS TO FURTHER DELAY EX-

Washington, March 28.-A number of Senators and Representatives of both parties conferred with the President at the White House tonight. It is said that the opinion expressed by most of those who talked with Mr. McKinley was that Congress was inclined to object to further delay in the settlement of the Spanish situation, and that unless the next Message was more definite the radical members could not be held in check. At the meeting of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on Wednesday Senator Frye will move that the committee remain in continuous session until the questions relating to the Maine, Cuba and Spain are settled. Mr. Foraker will introduce to-morrow a resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba.

FOUR MORE BODIES FROM THE MAINE. RELIEF WORK GOES ON RAPIDLY AND EFFEC-

Havana, March 28-Three bodies have been recovered to-day from the Maine wreck, and one was recovered yesterday.

Dr. Gordon, a well-known resident Spanish physician, has been selected by Consul-General Lee, General Blanco and Bishop Manuel Santander y Trutes to take charge of the Lee Orphanage, in succession to Dr. Lesser, who has gone to New-York. Everything promises to work smoothly. Estimates are being made for improvements and additions, which will be car-

ried out quickly, if not too expensive. Special Commissioner Louis Klopsch is in recelpt of frequent telegrams from the relief train that is bearing supplies into the interior. There has been no interruption in its successful progress. Twenty villages have been succored in the Province of Santa Clara, and to-day trains started from Cienfuegos and Cardenas.

AN ALTERED TONE IN VIENNA. SUGGESTIONS OF INTERVENTION CHANGED TO

MEDIATION. London, March 28.-It is remarked that the in-Berlin, March 28.—Lieutenant-Commander spired dispatches, emanating from Vienna, Niblack, the United States Naval Attaché, has which for a long time have suggested European returned here from Kiel. It is understood he has intervention in behalf of Spain, have, since the Chinese crisis reached an acute stage, been toned down to suggestions of mediation.

SPAIN BUYS THE YACHT GIRALDA. SHE WAS OFFERED TO THE UNITED STATES, BUT

DECLINED-SOLD FOR \$300,000. London, March 28.—A London broker, who had an option on H. L. B. McCalmont's steel yacht Giraida, says that she was sold to-day to Spain for about \$60,000. She is now at Barcelona. Last week she was offered to the United States
Government, but was declined. She was built
under the supervision of the British Admiralty
and fitted for eight guns. She now carries two
Maxims and two Hotchkiss guns and can cross
the ocean at a speed of twenty-two knots.

REPORT OF THE SPANISH COMMISSION ON THE MAINE EXPLOSION.

EXACTLY CONTRARY CONCLUSIONS FROM THOSE OF THE AMERICAN COURT OF IN-QUIRY REACHED.

Washington, March 28 .- A full synopsis of the report of the Spanish Naval Commission which investigated the destruction of the battle-ship Maine is here given by the Associated Press. day placed in the hands of this Government The conclusions reached are directly opposite to To-morrow General Woodford will confer those in the report of the Court of Inquiry submitted to Congress to-day. The synopsis is as

> "The report contains declarations made by ocular witnesses and experts. From these statements it clearly deduces and proves the absence of all those attendant circumstances which are invariably present on the occasion of the expiosion of a torpedo.

"The evidence of witnesses comparatively close to the Maine at the moment is to the effect that only one explosion occurred; that no column of water was thrown in the air; that no shock to the side of the nearest vessel was felt, nor on land was any vibration noticed, and that no dead fish were found.

"The evidence of the senior pilot of the harbor is that there is abundance of fish in the harbor and this is corroborated by other witnesses. The assistant engineer of works states that after explosions made during the execution of works in the harbor he has always found dead fish.

"The divers were unable to examine the bottom of the Maine, which was buried in the mud, but a careful examination of the sides of the vessel, the rents and breaks, in which all point outward, shows, without a doubt, that that ex-

plosion was from the inside.
"A minute examination of the bottom of the harbor around the vessel shows absolutely no sign of the action of a torpedo, and the Fiscal (Judge-Advocate) of the Commission can find no

precedent for the explosion of the storage maza-zine of a vessel by a torpedo.

"The report makes clear that, owing to the special nature of the proceedings following and the absolute respect shown for the extraterritoriality of the Maine, the Commission has been prevented from making such an examina-tion of the inside of the vessel as would determine even the hypothesis of the internal origin of the accident. This is to be attributed to the regrettable refusal to permit the necessary co-operation of the Spanish Commission, both with commander and crew of the Maine different American efficers commissioned

totally or partially altered, in extraction, the explosion was doubtedly due to some interior cause.

BRITISH ADVICE TO SPAIN. SHE WOULD DO WELL TO BE WISE IN TIME-PRAISE FOR PRESIDENT M'KINLEY.

London, March 29 .- "The Daily News" says editorially this morning:

"Again the unexpected has happened. Ac ording to our American correspondent's report the spirit of peace has descended upon the American people, apparently on the belief that United States Minister Woodford has sent a dispatch containing assurances that Spain is willing, under conditions, to withdraw her troops from Cuba and thus give the island effective autonomy, if not independence.

"If this be true, it throws the Maine disaster into its due perspective by giving America due satisfaction on the larger issue. Yet there are still uncertainties. The President's message undoubtedly suggests some kind of reparation. which is expected to be dealt with in to-morrow's

"General Woodford's dispatch comes just in time to determine the character of that communication. The situation may thus be summarized: The United States are willing to stiffe their resentment for the loss of the Maine if they receive satisfaction with regard to the Cuba of the future. It is a generous compromise, and Spain will do well to be wise in time,"

"The Daily Graphic" says: "President McKinley's Message is the work of a man of character and a statesman. Its moderation, perfect fairness and un-American avoidance of all emotional verbosity must command the sympathies of the civilized world. The United States are fortunate in having a man of this calibre at their head at

"His dignified appeal should strike a response sive chord in Spain, who cannot afford to be less handsome than this 'Americano,' The Message is an olive branch and leads us to attach more importance than we otherwise should to rumors of a peaceful solution."

"The Standard" says: "With a report so inconclusive and a Presidential Message so cordial toward Spain, the latter should be able to make suitable amends. Therefore war on that issue need not be apprehended. Still the situation is exceedingly grave. All the reports of compromise emanate from America. The danger is not passed. Let the United States continue in their patient mood. Their interests in Cuba, humanitarian or commercial, are not great enough to make it worth their while to break the peace

of the world." "The Times" says: "President McKinley's Message is temperate and contains nothing that ought to wound the feelings of the most susceptible Spanlard. It has in no way verified the anticipations that he would throw down the gauntlet. This is a distinct gain. It must be admitted, with every desire to excuse Spain's reluctance to yield to pressure, that we cannot

refuse our sympathy to the American people. "If such an incident as the Maine's destruction had happened to us it would have been very difficult even for Englishmen to preserve their boasted calm. We share the grief at the loss of a noble vessel and her crew, and we admire the patience and reserve of a democratic Government under provocation and public excitement. The sentiments of England for America, which we hope are reciprocated, are ex-

pressed in the Laureate's cordial verses." Proceeding to dilate upon the "necessity for American support in the Far East, where both England and America are ardently interested in keeping open trade," the editorial says:

"For this reason, if for no other, we should deeply regret to see America involved in a war with Spain which could be of advantage to neither and must cripple the strength of

George W. Smalley, the New-York correspondent of "The Times," says:

"Whatever happens, to-day has been a triumph for President McKinley. Whatever truth there is in the various rumors, Señor Sagasta can accept to-day what he could not accept yesterday. The elections have made him master of Spain. The President is master here. Both desire peace. Why should there be war? There is no doubt that the Nation will accept Mr. McKinley's policy. He has made American diplomacy and influence respected and seems likely to gain without war more than war could have given.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF SOLID COMFORT Can be had on either of the limited trains of the New-York Central between New-York and Chicago, every day in the year. See time-table in this paper.—Advt.

# MAINE REPORT IN CONGRESS.

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY TRANSMITS THE COURT OF INQUIRY'S TESTIMONY TAKEN BY THE COURT OF FINDINGS, ACCOMPANIED BY A MESSAGE.

# THE BATTLE-SHIP WAS BLOWN UP BY A MINE AT HAVANA.

CALMNESS AND DELIBERATION ON THE PART OF CONGRESS URGED BY THE PRESIDENT, WHO FEELS CONFIDENT THAT SPAIN WILL DO WHAT JUS-TICE AND HONOR DICTATE-THE REPORT AND MESSAGE RE-FERRED TO COMMITTEE IN BOTH HOUSES WITHOUT DEBATE.

The findings of the Court of Inquiry which investigated the destruction of the battleship Maine in Havana Harbor were transmitted to Congress yesterday by President Mc-Kinley. The Court finds, as had been foreshadowed, that the ship was blown up by a mine under the port side, and that this explosion set off two or more of the forward maga-The Court was unable to find evidence fixing the responsibility upon any person or persons. Captain Sigsbee and his officers are exonerated from all blame. The evidence taken by the Court was also made public.

President McKinley in his Message urges deliberate consideration on the part of Con-He says that the findings of the Court and the views of this Government thereon have been communicated to the Spanish Government, and he has no doubt that such action as honor and a sense of justice dictate will be taken.

The Message and report were referred to committees without debate. In the House some resentment was expressed by the radical members, who desired that more vigorous action should be taken.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Washington, March 28.-President McKinley at noon to-day transmitted to Congress the findings of the Court of Inquiry which investigated the blowing up of the battle-ship Maine in Havana Harbor, accompanied by the follow-

To the Congress of the United States: For some time prior to the visit of the Maine

to Havana Harbor our consular representatives pointed out the advantages to flow from the visit of National ships to the Cuban waters, in accustoming the people to the presence of our flag as a symbol of goodwill, and of our ships in the fulfilment of the mission of protection to American interests, even though no immediate need therefor might exist.

Accordingly on the 24th of January last, after conference with the Spanish Minister, in which the renewal of visits of our war vessels to Spanish waters was discussed and accepted, the peninsular authorities at Madrid and Havana were advised of the purpose of this Government to resume friendly naval visits to Cuban ports, and that, in that view, the Malae would forthwith call at the port of Havana. This announcement was received by the Spanish Government with appreciation of the friendly character of the visit of the Maine, and with notification of an intention to return the courtesy by sending Spanish ships to the principal ports of the United States. Meanwhile, the Maine entered the port of Havana on the 25th of January, her arrival being marked with no special incident besides the exchange of customary salutes and ceremonial visits.

The Maine continued in the harbor of Havana during the three weeks following her arrival. No appreciable excitement attended her stay; on the contrary, a feeling of relief and confidence followed the resumption of the longinterrupted friendly intercourse. So noticeable was this immediate effect of her visit that the Consul-General strongly urged that the presence of our ships in Cuban waters should be kept up by retaining the Maine at Havana, or, in the event of her recall, by sending another vessel there to take her place.

At forty minutes past nine in the evening of the 15th of February the Maine was deexplosion, by which the entire forward part of the ship was utterly wrecked. In this catastrophe two officers and 264 of her crew perished; those who were not killed outright by her explosion being penned between decks by the tangle of wreckage and drowned by the immediate sinking of the hull. Prompt assistance was rendered by the neighboring vessels anchored in the harbor, aid zines and shellrooms, four were empty, namely: being especially given by the boats of the Spanish cruiser Alphonso XII and the Ward Line steamer City of Washington, which lay not far for by the authorities of Havana, the hospitals being freely opened to them, while the earliest recovered bodies of the dead were interred by the municipality in a public cemetery in the city. Tributes of grief and sympathy were offered inspected that day by the engineer officer on from all official quarters of the island.

The appalling calamity fell upon the people of our country with crushing force, and for a brief time an intense excitement prevailed, which, in a community less just and self-controlled than ours, might have led to hasty acts of blind resentment. This spirit, however, soon gave way to the calmer processes of reason and to the reselve to investigate the facts and await material proof before forming a judgment as to the cause, the responsibility, and, if the facts warranted, the remedy due. This course necessarily recommended itself from the outset to the Executive. for only in the light of a dispassionately ascertained certainty could it determine the nature

and measure of its full duty in the matter. The usual procedure was followed, as in all cases of casualty or disaster to National vessels of any maritime State. A naval Court of Inquiry was at once organized, composed of officers well qualified by rank and practical experience to discharge the onerous duty imposed upon them. Aided by a strong force of wreckers and divers the Court proceeded to make a thorough investigation on the spot, employing every available means for the impartial and exact determination of the causes of the explosion. Its operations have been conducted with the utmost deliberation and judgment, and while independently pursued, no source of information was neglected, and the fullest opportunity was allowed for a simultaneous investigation by the Spanish au-

The finding of the Court of Inquiry was reached after twenty-three days of continuous labor, on the 21st of March instant, and having been approved on the 22d by the Commanderin-Chief of the United States naval force of the North Atlantic station, was transmitted to the Executive.

It is herewith laid before the Congress, together with the voluminous testimony taken before the Court. Its purport is, in brief, as

When the Maine arrived in Havana she was conducted by the regular Government pilot to Buoy No. 4, to which she was moored in from five and one-half to six fathoms of water. The state of discipline on board and the condition of her magazines, bollers, coal bunkers and storage compartments are passed in review, with the conclusion that excellent order pre vailed, and that no indication of any cause for an internal explosion existed in any quar-

everything had been reported secure, and all was quiet. At forty minutes past nine o'clock the vessel was suddenly destroyed. There were two distinct explosions, with a brief interval between them. The first lifted the forward part of the ship very perceptibly; the second, which was more open, prolonged and of greater

At 8 o'clock in the evening of February 15

THE MAINE COURT'S REPORT.

Tribune.

The following is the full text of the report of the Court of Inquiry:

United States Steamship Iowa, First Rate.

Key West, Fla., Monday, March 21, 1898. After full and mature consideration of all the estimony before it the Court finds as follows: (1.) That the United States battle-ship Maine arrived in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, on the 25th day of January, 1898, and was taken to the bunkers, spontaneous combustion, or from fathoms of water, by the regular government based, pilot. The United States Consul-General at Havana had notified the authorities at that place, the previous evening, of the intended ar-

(2) The state of discipline on board the Maine was excellent, and all orders and regulations in regard to the care and safety of the ship were strictly carried out. All ammunition was stowed in accordance with prescribed instructions, and proper care was taken whenever ammunition was handled. Nothing was stowed in Nothing in Captain Sigsbee's testimony shows any one of the magazines or shellrooms which | that the anchorage was changed or that it was was not permitted to be stowed there. The magazines and shellrooms were always locked after having been opened, and after the destruction of the Maine the keys were found in their proper place in the Captain's cabin, every- day what these divers found. This officer was thing having been reported secure that evening at 8 o'clock. The temperature of the magazines and shell-

rooms was taken daily and reported. The only magazine which had an undue amount of heat was the after 10-inch magazine, and that did not explode at the time the Maine was destroyed. The torpedo warheads were all stowed in the after part of the ship under the wardroom, and neither caused nor participated in the destruction of the Maine. The dry gun-cotton primers and detonators were stowed in the cabin aft and remote from the scene of the explosion. Waste was carefully looked after on the Maine to obviate danger. Special orders in regard to this had been given by the command ing officer. Varnishes, dryers, alcohol, and other combustibles of this nature were stowed on or above the main deck, and could not have had anything to do with the destruction of the Maine.

The medical stores were stowed aft under the wardroom and remote from the scene of the explosion. No dangerous stores of any kind were stowed below in any of the other store-

The coal bunkers were inspected daily. Of those bunkers adjacent to the forward maga-"B 3, B 4, B 5, B 6." "A 15" had been in use that day, and "A 16" was full of New River coal. This coal had been carefully inspected distant. The wounded were generously cared before receiving it on board. The bunker in which it was stowed was accessible on three sides at all times, and the fourth side at this time, on account of bunkers "B 4" and "B 6" being empty. This bunker, "A 16," had been duty. The fire-alarms in the bunkers were in working order, and there had never been a case of spontaneous combustion of coal on board the

The two after bollers of the ship were in use at the time of the disaster, but for auxiliary purposes only, with a comparatively low pressure of steam, and being tended by a reliable watch. These boilers could not have caused the explosion of the ship. The four forward boilers have since been found by the divers, and are in a fair condition.

On the night of the destruction of the Maine everything had been reported secure for the night at 8 p. m., by reliable persons through the proper authorities, to the commanding officer. At the time the Maine was destroyed the ship was quiet, an therefore, least liable to accident caused by movements from those on

(3.) The destruction of the Maine occurred at forty minutes past nine in the evening, on the 15th day of February, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, she being at the time moored to the same buoy to which she had been taken upon her arrival. There were two explosions of a distinctly different character, with a very short but distinct interval between them, and the forward part of the ship was lifted to a marked degree at the time of the first explosion. The first explosion was more in the nature of a report, like that of a gun, while the second explosion was more open, prolonged, and of greater volume. This second explosion was, in the opinion of the Court, caused by the partial explosion of two yards. or more of the forward magazines of the Maine.

CONDITION OF THE WRECK.

The evidence bearing upon this, being principally obtained from divers, did not enable the Court to form a definite conclusion as to the condition of the wreck, although it was established that the after part of the ship was practically intact and sank in that condition a very few minutes after the destruction of the forward part. The following facts in regard to the forward part of the ship are, however, established by the testimony:

That portion of the port side of the protective deck which extends from about frame 30 to about frame 41 was blown up aft and over to port. The main deck from about frame 30 to about frame 41 ws blown up aft and slightly over to starboard, folding the forward part of the middle superstructure over and on top of the after part. This was, in the opinion of the Court, caused by the partial explosion of two or more of the forward magazines of the Maine. (5) At frame 17 the outer shell of the ship from a point eleven and one-half feet from the middle line of the ship, and six feet above the

keel when in its normal position, has been forced Continued on Seventh Page.

THE EVIDENCE CONCLUSIVE.

MAINE EXPLOSION EXTERNAL

THE FACTS RELATED BY CAPTAIN SIGSBEE, WIN OFFICERS AND THE DIVERS SHOW THAT

> THE DISASTER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN DUE TO ANY INTERNAL

CAUSE-THE POSITION OF THE SHIP NOT CHANGED.

Washington, March 28.-The immense mass of testimony taken by the Maine Court of Inquiry was sent to the Senate to-day with the Prestdent's Message, and, with the findings of the Court, was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. The testimony was taken on eighteen different days, the fourteenth day, however, being devoted to viewing the wreck. Every witness who was known to have any information that could throw light upon the great disaster was called to give his testimony. The story of the destruction of the vessel is told, not graphically, but in a manner which gives all the obtainable facts. No technical detail is omitted. Every movement and incident connected with the Maine from the time she left Key West until the last diver examined the wreck, slowly sinking in the mud of Havana Harbor, is given.

It is a story intensely interesting to the American people. Those who read it can have little doubt as to whether there was an internal or external explosion. Perhaps the most significant testimony is that showing the bottom plates on the port side of the ill-fated Maine to be bent inward and upward, a result that hardly could have followed anything save an explosion from the outside. A mass of testimony is submitted showing the care exercised on board the ship by Captain Sigsbee and his officers, and the apparent impossibility of the accident occurring by any internal cause, such as the heating of buoy No. 4, in from five and one-half to six other causes upon which so many theories were

The testimony of Captain Sigsbee is of the greatest importance, and is, perhaps, of more general interest than that of any other mancalled before the Board. With great care and minuteness he gives an account of the management of the ship, how she was handled, what was done from day to day on board, how she sailed into Havana, her anchorage and what he knew about it, and in fact every point upon which the Government and the country desires to be informed. considered dangerous by any one

Second to the importance of the testimony of Captain Sigsbee is that of Ensign Powelson, who had charge of the divers, and knew from day to minutely informed as to the construction of the Maine and everything about her. His testimony was, to a certain extent, technical, bearing upon the construction of the ship, her plates, etc., but it was from these plates and this technical knowledge that he was able to declare that the explosion took place from the outside.

The divers, Morgan, Olsen and Smith, all contributed important evidence. They testified that the plates were bent inward on the bottom port side and outward on the starboard side. The story of the explosion is told by different witnesses and adds little to what Captain Sign

bee and Commander Wainwright related. Nothing in the testimony fixes responsibility, no conspiracy is apparent, no knowledge of the planting of a mine is shown. Captain Sigsbee states that a somewhat bitter feeling existed against the American ships and Americans generally, and a witness, whose name is suppressed, tells of overhearing a conversation between Spanish officers and a citizen ind knowledge of the destruction of the Maine and an intention to blow her up. An official of the American Consulate tells of information received anonymously tending to show that a conspiracy existed. But nothing is definitely stated which fixes any responsibility upon Spain or her sub-

THE TESTIMONY IN DETAIL.

OFFICERS OF THE MAINE, DIVERS AND OTHERS BEFORE THE COURT

Washington, March 28.-The most important features of the testimony taken by the Maine Court of Inquiry are as follows:

# CAPTAIN SIGSBEE'S STORY.

Captain Sigsbee, in testifying before the Court of Inquiry which convened in the Harbor of Havana Monday, February 2t, said that he assumed com-mand of the Maine on April 19, 1897, and that his ship arrived in the harbor of Havana the last time January 24, 1898. The authorities at Havana knew of the Maine's coming, Consul-General Lee having nformed the authorities, according to official custom. After he took on an official pilot sent by the Captain of the Port of Havana, the ship was berthed in the man-of-war anchorage off the Mo china, or the Shears, which, according to his understanding, was one of the regular buoys of the place He then stated that he had been in Havana in 1872 and again in 1878. He could not state whether the Maine was placed in the usual berth for meaof-war, but said that he had heard remarks since the explosion, using Captain Stevens, temporarily in command of the Ward Line steamer City of Washington, as authority for the statement that he had never known in all his experience, which cov-ered visits to Havana for five or six years, a man-of-war to be anchored at that buoy; that he had rarely known merchant years to be a colored. of-war, but said that he had heard remarks since rarely known merchant vessels to be anchored there, and that it was the least-used buoy in the harbor. In describing the surroundings when first moored to his buoy, Captain Sigsbee stated that the Spanish man-of-war Alphonso XII was moored in the position now occupied by the Fern, about two hundred and fifty yards to the northward and west-ward of the Maine. The German ship Gniesenau was anchored at the berth now occupied by the Spanish man-of-war Segaspe, which is about four hundred yards about due north from the Maine. He then located the German man-of-war Charlotte, which came into the harbor a day or two later, which was anchored to the southward of the Maine's berth about four hundred or five hundred

THE NIGHT OF THE EXPLOSION.

In describing the surroundings at the time of the xplosion, Captain Sigsbee stated that the night was calm and still. The Alphonso XII was at the same berth. The small Spanish dispatch-boat Segaspe had come out the day before and taken the berth occupied by the German man-of-war, the Gniese nau, which had left. The steamer City of Wash ington was anchored about two hundred yards to the south and east of the Maine's stern, slightly on the port quarter. The Maine coaled at Key West, taking on about one hundred and fifty tons, the coal being regularly inspected and taken from the Government coal pile. This coal was placed generally in the forward bunkers. No report w received from the chief engineer that any coal had been too long in the bunkers, and that the fire alarms in the bunkers were sensitive.

Concerning the regulations regarding inflamma-bles and paints on board, Captain Sigsbee testified that the regulations were strictly carried out in regard to stowage, and that the waste was also subjected to the same careful disposition. As to the situation of the paintroom, he fixed it as in the "eyes of the ship," just below the berth deck, extreme forward compartment. As for the a position of inflammables, they were stowed thests, according to regulations, and when inflammables were in excess of chest capacity they we mables were in excess of chest capacity they were allowed to be kept in the bathroom of the admiral's cabin. Regarding the electric plant of the Maine.